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THE  
RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL OF  
GAINSBOROUGH



R E P O R T  
OF THE MEDICAL  
OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE  
YEAR 1952



# **GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



*Chairman :*

J. J. ALLEN, J.P., Scotton

*Vice-Chairman :*

A. SMITHSON, Morton

*Clerk of the Council :*

EDGAR A. DONSON,  
R.D.C. Offices, 17, Morley Street, Gainsborough



## **STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Dr. J. C. MACARTNEY, M.D.(Edin.), D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

E. DONELLY, A.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

# Gainsborough Rural District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

### Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1952

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**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

22nd July, 1953

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952, which has been a very healthy one.

The Birth Rate continues at a very high level (19.5) compared with that for England and Wales (15.3). The Death Rate (9.6) is again lower than last year's (10.1), whilst that for the whole country is 11.3. The Infantile Mortality Rate of 39.2 is explained by the fact that four of the total of eight infantile deaths were due to congenital malformations which are not preventable.

The Report shows the very low incidence of Infectious Diseases and absence of cases of Poliomyelitis as well as Diphtheria. Only one death is recorded as due to Tuberculosis.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Councillors for their helpful interest in Public Health matters. I am also grateful to the Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector and the Water Engineer for their constant collaboration and helpful information at all times.

Yours obediently,

J. C. MACARTNEY,  
M.D. (Edin.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

## SECTION A.

### 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District .....	78,598 acres
Estimated Population .....	12,640
Rateable Value on the 31st March, 1952 .....	£43,383
Sum Represented by the 1d. Rate .....	£172

The district is entirely rural in character and the sole industry is agriculture. It surrounds the Urban District of Gainsborough on three sides. The Northern and Southern extremities are seventeen miles apart and the greatest width is eleven miles. Part of the Parishes of Lea and Morton, adjoining Gainsborough town, are semi-residential. There are thirty-seven parishes and the Council consists of thirty-two Councillors.

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births .....	112	92	204
Legitimate .....	105	87	192
Illegitimate .....	7	5	12
Still Births .....	4	3	7
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....			19.53

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS. All causes .....	79	52	131
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....			9.64

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS. Infants under 1 year ...	6	2	8
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) .....			39.22

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	1	—	1
Measles .....	1	—	1
Cancer .....	17	8	25
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	1	—	1
Diabetes .....	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	7	16
Coronary disease, angina .....	10	6	16
Hypertension with heart disease .....	2	—	2
Other heart disease .....	8	10	18
Other circulatory disease .....	2	3	5
Pneumonia .....	1	1	2
Bronchitis .....	7	3	10
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea .....	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	—	4	4
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	—	2
Congenital malformations .....	3	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	2	10
Motor Vehicle accidents .....	2	—	2
All other accidents .....	3	3	6

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79	52	131
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## COMPARATIVE TABLES.

### Births:

Year	Male	Female	Total	Birth† Rate
1952 .....	112	92	204	19.53
1951 .....	119	113	232	21.9
1950 .....	120	115	235	19.2
1949 .....	106	93	199	16.3
1948 .....	129	113	242	22.16
1947 .....	107	105	212	20.26
1946 .....	111	95	206	18.18

### Deaths:

Year	Male	Female	Total	Death† Rate
1952 .....	79	52	131	9.6
1951 .....	81	59	140	10.1
1950 .....	67	73	140	11.4
1949 .....	67	52	119	9.7
1948 .....	63	56	119	10.8
1947 .....	72	59	131	12.52
1946 .....	53	56	109	10.5

### Infantile Mortality:

Year	†Rate
1952 .....	39.2
1951 .....	38.7
1950 .....	25.5
1949 .....	55.0
1948 .....	28.9
1947 .....	33.0
1946 .....	29.1

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	†Infant Mortality
England and Wales .....	15.3	11.3	27.6
Gainsborough Rural District .....	19.53	9.6	39.2

† Rates per 1,000 Home Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

#### A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

##### Health Information.

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E., County Offices, Lincoln.

Many various facilities are available under the following headings:—

Maternity Service.

Child Care.

Home Nursing.

Health Visitors.

Home Helps.

Sick Room Requisites, appliances and other equipment.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Mental Health.

Ambulance Service.

Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

The County Council's clinics function at Gainsborough as follows:—

**(a) At Spital Terrace Clinic**

Minor Ailments Clinic .....	Daily 9-30 a.m.
School Clinic .....	Tuesdays 2 p.m.
Infant Welfare Centre .....	Thursdays 2 p.m.
Toddlers Clinic .....	2nd Friday and 4th Monday in each month 10 a.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic .....	1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday in each month 10 a.m.
Dental Clinic, Vaccination and Immunisation .....	By appointment.
Sunlight Clinic .....	Mondays and Thursdays 10 a.m.
Domestic Help Service .....	Organiser attends Thursdays 2 p.m.

**(b) At Woods Terrace Clinic**

Infant Welfare Centre .....	Mondays 2 p.m., Tuesdays 10 a.m. except 4th Tuesday in month.
Ante-Natal Clinic .....	1st, 3rd and 5th Monday in month 10 a.m.
Toddlers Clinic .....	2nd Monday and 4th Friday 10 a.m.

In addition to above, appointments can be arranged at the John Coupland or other Hospital for school and pre-school children requiring Ophthalmic or Ear, Nose and Throat consultant services. A Rheumatism and Heart specialist is also available at the Lincoln County Hospital.

## SECTION C.

### WATER SUPPLY.

- (i) The water supplied by the Council is derived from the following sources and during the year was satisfactory both in quality and quantity:—
- (1) Council's own boreholes at Glentham and Caenby, west of the Lincolnshire Wolds.
  - (2) Bulk supply from Lincoln Corporation, the supply being derived from boreholes at Elkesley in Nottinghamshire.
  - (3) Bulk supply from Glanford Brigg Rural District Council for the hamlet of Susworth only (i.e., 35 properties in the Scotter Parish).
- (ii) Samples for Bacteriological and Chemical examinations were taken periodically and the results were satisfactory.
- (iii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination as no adverse reports were received.

In all cases where water is drawn from wells, water samples are taken, and when found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes statutory notices are served. When property owners are informed that the water is unfit, it often happens that the work is carried out without the service of a statutory notice being necessary.

(v)

### HOUSES.

Parish.	Total No.	No. with piped supplies.
Blyborough .....	61	53
Blyton .....	291	245
Brampton .....	26	22
Corringham .....	143	116
East Ferry .....	42	37
East Stockwith .....	100	97
Fenton .....	85	77
Fillingham .....	75	64
Gate Burton .....	31	25
Glentworth .....	89	84
Grayingham .....	40	25
Hardwick .....	Supplied by Lincoln Corporation	
Harpwell .....	28	23
Heapham .....	36	33
Hemswell .....	108	97
Kettlethorpe .....	70	64*
Kexby .....	114	104
Knaith .....	54	51
Laughton .....	78	69
Lea .....	190	185
Marton .....	128	115
Morton .....	Supplied by Gainsborough U.D.C	



(v)

**HOUSES.**

Parish.	Total No.	No. with piped supplies.
Newton-on-Trent .....	75	72†
Northorpe .....	61	55
Pilham .....	17	12
Scotter .....	350	317
Scotton .....	75	72
Springthorpe .....	46	43
Stow .....	114	107
Sturton-by-Stow .....	199	183
Thonock .....	16	10
Torksey .....	46	40‡
Upton .....	74	62
Walkerith .....	23	23
Wildsworth .....	29	28
Willingham .....	131	119
Willoughton .....	152	140
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>3197</b>	<b>2869</b>

\* includes 13 supplied by Lincoln Corporation.

† includes 2 supplied by Lincoln Corporation.

‡ includes 3 supplied by Lincoln Corporation.

**SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

**Blyton, Scotter and Scotton** works are now in operation and approximately 60% of the house connections have been made.

**Morton** scheme is progress and is well in the advanced stage.

**Knaith** scheme has been commenced and a fair amount of progress has been made.

**REFUSE COLLECTION, SCAVENGING.**

A direct labour house refuse removal service is in operation throughout the district and appears to be working very satisfactorily. There are six tips scattered throughout the area, and these will answer their purpose for some time to come. They are treated at regular intervals for rat infestation. There is only one night-soil removal service in operation which is at Morton village. This, of course, will cease after completion of the Morton sewerage scheme.

Throughout the area an inspection of dustbins has been made and quite a number of houses were found to be without, or with unsatisfactory receptacles. Notices have been served which have had the desired effect.

**SECTION D.****HOUSING.**

Number of houses completed during the year :

(a) by the Local Authority ... ..	43
(b) by other Bodies ... ..	12

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55

SEVEN

POST WAR HOUSING  
POSITION ON 31st MARCH, 1953

DWELLINGS COMPLETED

Blyton .....	16	Lea .....	2
Brampton .....	2	Marton .....	16
Corringham .....	10	Morton .....	28
East Ferry .....	4	Newton-on-Trent .....	4
East Stockwith .....	6	Northorpe .....	8
Fillingham .....	8	Scotter .....	12
Glentworth .....	12	Scotton .....	8
Grayingham .....	4	Springthorpe .....	4
Heapham .....	4	Stow .....	8
Hemswell .....	14	Sturton-by-Stow .....	14
Kettlethorpe .....	10	Upton .....	10
Kexby .....	14	Wildsworth .....	2
Knaith .....	6	Will ngham .....	9
Laughton .....	4	Wiloughton .....	4

Total ..... 243

SUMMARY

Houses completed .....	243
Houses under erection .....	46
Current Building Programme .....	35
Future Programme .....	80

Total ..... 404

COMPARISON

AVERAGE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NINE RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCILS IN LINDSEY

POSITION ON 31st DECEMBER, 1952

	Average Achievement.	Achievement of Gainsborough R.D.C.
Council houses completed .....	281	227
COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED		
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION ...	15.9	17.7
Council houses under erection	63	62

HOUSING ACT, 1936 — PART IV — OVERCROWDING

(a)	(I)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	11
	(II)	Number of families therein .....	14
	(III)	Number of persons dwelling therein .....	77
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	3
(c)	(I)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	4
	(II)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	24
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved .....	Nil

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year, which reflects creditably on food inspections and on food handling. Notices requesting the prohibition of dogs in food shops were distributed during the year. These were, to a large extent favourably received by shopkeepers.

## SECTION F.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were no serious incidence of any of the acute infectious fevers. Fewer measles cases (61) occurred. Scarlet Fever cases (11) were mild. It will be seen from the following tables that no definite case of "polio" arose and that again we were fortunate in having no Diphtheria.

If parents become too complacent about the value of immunisation against Diphtheria, we could easily have a major outbreak at some future time.

Particulars of diphtheria immunisations, vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out in the Gainsborough Rural District during 1952 :

	Under five years of age.	Between five and fourteen years of age.		Boosting Doses.	Total.
Diphtheria					
Immunisations ...	101	34		215	350
	Under one.	1—4.	5—14.	15 or over.	Total.
Vaccinations .....	25	5	3	4	37
Re-vaccinations ...	—	—	2	7	9

## DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Pollomyelitis	Pulm.	Tuberculosis Non-Pulm.	Typhoid Fever
Blyborough .....	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blyton .....	2	—	3	1	1*	—	—	—
Corringham .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
East Stockwith .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Grayingham .....	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hemswell R.A.F. ....	27	5	3	1	—	—	—	1
Knaith .....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lea .....	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—
Laughton .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Morton .....	19	2	9	—	—	1	1	—
Newton-on-Trent ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scotter .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scotton .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sturton-by-Stow ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thonock .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Torksey .....	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Walkerith .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	61	11	29	3	1	3	1	1

\* Diagnosis not confirmed.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles .....	—	3	9	1	1	—	—	1	3	13	11	19	61
Scarlet Fever .....	1	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	2	1	11
Whooping Cough .....	10	2	1	1	4	5	1	—	—	—	5	—	29
Pneumonia .....	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Polomyelitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total .....	11	6	14	2	5	7	2	2	5	13	19	20	106

\* Diagnosis not confirmed

### TUBERCULOSIS

Ages	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5 .....	—	—	—	—
5—10 .....	—	—	—	1
10—15 .....	—	—	—	—
15—25 .....	—	—	—	—
25—45 .....	1	—	—	—
45—65 .....	1	—	—	—
Over 65.....	—	1	—	—
<hr/>				
Totals .....	2	1	—	1
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### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—
<hr/>			
Total .....		1	

# **PART I OF THE ACT.**

## **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**

### **1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.**

#### **Premises**

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	6	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	48	14	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

## **PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK.**

	Sections 110 and 111. Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	All other items
No. of out-workers in August, list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	1	Nil
No. of defaults, prosecutions, notices served (under all headings)	Nil	Nil











